

The Times-Dispatch

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FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1908.

THE MORTGAGE TAX.

Senator Barkdale's proposed amendment to the tax bill raises a question which has been time and again discussed in these columns, and which is one of the most interesting phases of the entire tax system. The amendment provides that "in listing tracts and lots of land and the improvements thereon for taxation, the amount of any mortgage, or deed of trust, or the balance of any amount due as the purchase price thereof, shall be deducted from the value of any such tract or lot of land and the improvements thereon, and any such mortgage, deed of trust or amount due on the purchase price on same, shall be listed for taxation against the holder thereof."

Under the present law, a man owning a house and lot or a tract of land upon which he has made a partial payment, and upon which there is a mortgage to secure the balance due, must pay on the full assessed value of the property, and in addition the person who holds the mortgage must pay on the mortgage, or, to be exact, on the estate secured by the mortgage. Of course, the creditor charges enough interest to cover the tax which he has to pay, and so, after all, the landholder pays taxes on the entire property and on the debt. The whole thing is as unfair as it can be, and some remedy should be found to relieve the landholder.

In order to bring the question fairly before the reader, let us suppose a case. A owns a lot in the city of Richmond, for which he has paid. We will suppose that the lot is worth \$2,000. B has \$5,000, upon which he has been paying taxes as so much money in hand. A applies to B for a loan, and B agrees to lend the money, provided A will erect a house to cost \$5,000 and give him a mortgage on the entire property. B then draws his money from bank and turns it over to A, and A erects a house costing \$5,000, and the whole property is then assessed at \$7,000.

It will be observed that the property which has been created is the house. B has simply converted so much money into so much brick and mortar. But under our system it is held that property has been created in the mortgage, and so not only is A assessed on the house and lot, but B is assessed on the mortgage. It is perfectly plain that this is double taxation. It is held that B's mortgage is so much property, but it is not. It simply represents a debt; it simply represents the money which B formerly had in hand and which he has turned over to A. If A pays the tax on the house and lot, of course B should be exempt. It is not right that both should pay on the same amount.

Senator Barkdale's amendment is founded on the right principle. In point of fact, the house and lot in the illustration are the joint property of A and B. In point of fact, A owns the lot and B owns the house, and so in fairness A should be made to pay taxes on the lot and B on the house. But while this amendment is founded on good principle, it is, in our opinion, utterly impracticable and would lead to all sorts of abuses. It would, we believe, create large numbers of "straw" mortgages and open the door to fraud. More than that, it would be an injustice to the State. It would put the State to great trouble to get the revenue which belongs to her, and in case of non-resident mortgage holders we do not see how the State could get her revenue at all, except by resort to heroic measures. It has been suggested that the State could get her revenue by pre-empting the interest which the landholder pays to the foreign debtor, but such a process would be open to manifest objection, and even if it were practicable and allowable, it would undoubtedly tend to make the interest rate higher, or more probably it would prevent outside capital from seeking investment in Virginia.

There is but one safe course for the State to pursue, and that is to lay her hands on all property—all actual, tangible property—in the State and tax it once and only once. When the State undertakes to lay its hands upon that which is not property, but which merely represents property, and tax it, she gets into all sorts of difficulties.

This paper has been very much commended for proposing that mortgages be exempt from taxation. But those who take a full and fair view of the subject must see that our contention is right. When a man lends his money to his neighbor, and the neighbor pays the tax for him, the lender is in all fairness exempt. But we are not championing the cause of the money lender. Our contention is that the only possible relief for the landholder whose land is mortgaged is to exempt the mortgage, and so by competition among money lenders to reduce the rate of interest. One of the largest builders in Richmond recently declared that he could borrow money in this city for building purposes for four per cent, against five and six per cent. if mortgages were exempt from taxation. Any person who will look over the advertising columns of this paper will see that there are large sums of money in Richmond seeking investment in real estate

loans. There is sharp competition between money lenders, and if mortgages were exempt this competition would unquestionably lower the rate of interest to the extent of exemption.
But how would you get at the money lender? Is asked. There is no fair way except to tax his income.

THE SHACKELFORD BILL VETOED.

In yesterday's paper we printed a communication from Senator Shackelford, of Orange, in reply to our criticism of Senate bill 24, of which he is the patron. The bill provides that "No division superintendent of schools shall be selected and associated as a member of the State Board of Education, who is the author or editor of any text book or text books now in use, or which belong to a class which may hereafter be eligible for selection for use in the schools of the State, or who is interested in the publication or sale of such text book or text books, or who is interested in the invention, manufacture or sale of school appliances for such use, or who is in any way interested in such text books or school appliances."

Our information was that this bill was adversely reported by the House Committee, and that it was taken out of the hands of the committee of the Senate and passed. Mr. Shackelford says that while the House Committee did report the bill adversely, only five members were present when it was considered; three being against it and two in favor of it. He further states that the bill was taken out of the hands of the Senate Committee because as the chairman was sick no meeting of the committee had been held for some time; therefore after speaking to the members of the committee and showing them the bill, he gained their consent to have the committee discharged.

It appears from this that our information was correct, although the qualifications stated by Senator Shackelford make a difference. Of course, we had no disposition to mislead, and we are very glad to make this explanation.

However, that does not touch the main point. We did not say that this bill was absurd; we said that it appeared to us to be absurd, and it still appears so in spite of the explanation which Senator Shackelford had made. His contention is that no man should be selected to choose text books who is peculiarly interested in the same, or who has that prejudice which must lean toward the work of his own mind. That may be a good rule, but the trouble is that in this case it does not apply to the three members of the board elected by the Senate, but only to the two division school superintendents to be selected by the board, and even in that case, it seems to us that the restrictions are entirely too severe. First of all, the selection of school books is only a part of the duties of a member of the State Board of Education, and we do not believe that it is good policy to exclude a man who is thoroughly competent to serve and entirely worthy and honorable simply because he is the author of some text book which may possibly be selected as a text book.

We cannot see any occasion, certainly at this time, for any such restriction. We feel that the rule would do far more harm than good. There are very few superintendents, who are authors, or inventors of school appliances. We do not believe that any of these, if he was a member of the State Board of Education, would use his position to have any of his own books or appliances adopted. There is among the friends of popular education in Virginia a general desire, so far as we can ascertain, that Superintendent B. C. Glass, of Lynchburg, be elected a member of the Board of Education. Yet under this law Mr. Glass would be excluded, simply because he is author of a spelling book, which he has sold to a publisher and in which he has no pecuniary interest.

We repeat that a law which excludes such a desirable man from membership for the reason stated, seems to us to be absurd. The Governor has vetoed the bill, and we hope that the veto will be sustained. We can see no good end to be served by such a law, and we think that it would be hurtful to the cause of popular education.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The land bill which was formally read in the House of Commons on Wednesday night last marks the beginning of a new era for unfortunate Ireland. There is no need at this time to discuss the absentee landlords or the rights and wrongs that grew out of the confiscation of property in Ireland from the time of Queen Elizabeth and earlier. As perhaps in no other part of the civilized world, it was a condition and not a theory that confronted the legislators, and the sense of wrong that had been done the Irish, whether intentional or not, was one of the great motive powers in the life and political service of W. B. Gladstone. It is true that Mr. Gladstone's home rule bill was a practical confession and was foredoomed to failure, but it was conceived in an earnest desire to right, as far as possible, the wrong under which Ireland had suffered. Mr. Kipling to the contrary notwithstanding, the Irish are a people who, when given a chance to earn their own land, are the most peaceable and God-fearing citizens, and colossal as the undertaking may appear, it is none the less the part of statesmanship and wisdom to invest from \$500,000,000 to \$700,000,000 in the purchasing of the holdings of the landlords, which holdings are to be resold to the present tenants at a twenty-five year payment plan.

The apparent difficulties in raising so large a sum of money are not as serious as it would appear when it is considered that the tenants who purchase the holdings under this act will be paying less in interest and sinking fund than they are now paying in rent, and further when it is considered that the reduction in taxes and the cost of governing Ireland will make it a paying proposition for the landlord to accept guaranteed government bonds in exchange for his property, instead of holding that property under such conditions as those which now make Ireland almost uninhabitable. Mr. Wynd-

ham said that he doubted whether it would be necessary to issue more than \$500,000,000, which would be rated at \$25,000,000 a year for the first three years and afterwards in larger sums for the purpose of purchasing the landlords' holdings. In addition to this the government proposed a free grant of \$4,000,000. The interest and sinking fund on the \$500,000,000 will be met by the reduction in the cost of administering Ireland, which reduction, it is estimated, will not be less than \$1,250,000 forever. In addition to this reduction, Mr. Wyndham pointed out that the tax-payers of England were paying \$700,000 a year for the land commission and \$7,000,000 for the Irish police, both of which sums would be also largely reduced when the trouble arising between the landlords and tenants were lessened. Mr. Wyndham further pointed out that so far the State had added about \$8,000,000 to the cost of the land problem, and that the tenants to acquire their property for themselves, and had not lost a half penny by any one of them. Public opinion supported repayment on this, and was high moral security, in addition to the security afforded by the land itself.

This plan promises to solve the land difficulties in Ireland, and we look for a revival of happiness and prosperity in the Emerald Isle, under a system which will make the Irish the owners as well as the cultivators of their own territory.

MANN BILL PASSES THE SENATE.

We congratulate our friend, Senator Mann, of Nottingham, upon the able and courageous and successful fight he has made in behalf of his bill to regulate the liquor traffic. We are entirely agreed with him in the high purpose which he has in view, but we do not approve his method. The weak point in the Mann bill is the manner of ascertaining public sentiment. Judge Mann thinks that this cannot be accomplished by petition, but we cannot agree with him. "My bill," said he, in his argument on Wednesday, "is to place the burden on the man who wants the liquor license and to take the burden off all those who oppose the license. If this is not fair, if it is not just, if it is not right, then I don't know what is right and what is justice."

The effect of the bill, if passed, would be to declare prohibition in all parts of the State, where the law should apply. This would close up all the saloons, and in order to open a saloon it would be necessary for the applicant to get a majority of the registered voters in that district to sign a petition requesting the judge to grant a license. We hold that this is not a fair way of testing public sentiment in any community. Judge Mann says that it is fair and just to put the burden upon the man who wants to open a saloon. All right, but let us have a fair and just method of getting at the real wishes of the people.

We agree with Senator Anderson that if the bill is to become a law, the voters of each community to be affected thereby should have the option of accepting or rejecting it at the polls.

PENSIONS FOR TEACHERS.

We have received the following communication:

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—I very much regret to see you throw the weight of your influence in favor of the proposition to pension public school teachers. I know of a school where a vacancy occurred, and there were seven applicants for the position. All were ladies, and equally qualified to teach. Of course, only one secured the position. The other six have had to seek other employment. Now, I submit, is it right to tax these six to take care of the favored one who got a place wanted by all?

W. H. Manassas, Va., March 25.
Our correspondent need not give herself any concern on this score. Under this proposed pension law, the teacher who secured this position will not be entitled to receive a pension until she has been in the service twenty-five years, and even then she must show that she has been faithful to her duties; that she is more than sixty years of age, and that she is not able to take care of herself.

Twenty-five years hence the ladies who failed to get the place will surely not grumble if their old and decrepit rival secures a pension of \$200 a year from the State. Their contribution to the fund would at most be but a few cents, and not enough to cause any hardship.

The Appomattox apple tree fades and withers from time to time, but never dies. It is a perennial. Here it is blooming out again. An old soldier presented to the University of Georgia a piece of wood which he said came from the tree beneath which Lee surrendered to Grant, stating that "he was present at the time the tree was cut down and took a portion of it to preserve as a relic."

The Dean of the Faculty, believing that there must have been something upon which was based the widespread belief that the surrender took place under an apple tree, wrote to General Gordon on the subject. He stated that he was familiar with the history of what occurred in the McLean house, and knew that the articles of surrender were signed there, but he wanted to know how the apple tree came into the story. To his letter General Gordon replied as follows:

Mr. Sylvanus Morris, Athens, Ga.: Dear Professor—Yours received. Both General Longstreet and myself were present in the room when the formal surrender took place at Appomattox, as was also Colonel Marshall. The account, therefore, which states that only Colonel Marshall was present, is incorrect. The apple tree incident is a romance. The surrender took place, except in the room of the McLean house. The only connection of the surrender with the apple tree is the fact that General Lee and General Grant met there for a few moments and agreed upon the place for formal meeting. Probably the most appropriate impression you could place on the place of wood would be to the effect that it was taken from the apple tree near which Generals Lee and Grant met prior to the surrender. With best wishes, I am, sincerely yours, J. B. GORDON.

New York is desperately determined to hold on to her grain trade, if possible. A bill has passed one branch of the Legislature looking to the enlargement of the Erie and Champlain canals so that 1,000-ton barges may pass through them. Then such a barge, with wheat in bulk, may be loaded at Chicago and need not

be opened until it reaches New York city. The estimated cost of this improvement is \$100,000,000, and the people at the polls are to decide whether the money shall be appropriated or not.

It looks as though this is going to be a canal-building age.

Miss Mary Johnston has suffered much from ill health of late, in consequence of which her new novel, *Sir Mortimer*, will not be begun in the May number of *Harper's Monthly*, as heretofore announced. Two-thirds of the MS. is in the hands of the publishers, but the remainder Miss Johnston is not yet able to furnish.

We may be pardoned for just one more allusion to a very interesting subject, just to say that no reasonable person can object to the weather we are now having in old Virginia, if the frost will keep out of the fruit trees.

If Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Cleveland both stop over in Lincoln, Neb., future issues of the *Commoner* will be warm numbers in every possible acceptance of the term.

Castro's method of back-peddaling out of office will not be adopted by the officials of other American republics to any alarming extent.

President Castro emphatically denies that his resignation is stage play. He is in earnest when he says he is tired of his job.

The Texas Legislature has passed a very strict child labor bill, which has been duly signed by the Governor.

Buffalo events teach some people that love letters of certain varieties should be burned as soon as read.

The bursting buds and the man who shucks his winter wear this week may be milke imprudent.

It is not considered irreligious in Arkansas for people to dam the Mississippi if they can.

Votes and vigor characterized the Senate proceedings to a considerable extent yesterday.

The peach blossoms would be easy fruit for Jack Frost should he come in much force.

A negro Methodist preacher is the chaplain of the Wisconsin Legislature.

The Mann bill will now stop over to the House and see what it is up to.

With a Comment or Two.

That state fire alarm incident at the State capital Sunday a sort of "nostalgic" ring, by which the old English from Norfolk were teaching the angels of Richmond how to fly—Norfolk Ledger.

Shouldn't wonder.

The Virginia Legislature is getting into the sage and yellow leaf and its second childhood—Greenville (N. C.) Reformer. True it is acquiring considerable age, but there is no evidence of second childhood.

Carrie Nation is hesitating between two titles for her forthcoming book: "Ten Nights in a Bar-room" or "Jailers I Have Met."—Charlotte News.

How would "One Night in Ten Bar-rooms" do?

The Richmond Times-Dispatch remarks that "the croakers shipped here from Old Point are not the only ones in town. It is a fact that the croakers here are the best ones—Newport News Press.

More readily disposed of, anyhow.

Personal and General.

Rev. Dr. Hiram Hutchins, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Brooklyn, has just celebrated the fiftieth wedding anniversary with his third wife. Dr. Hutchins will shortly be ninety-three years old.

Professor M. I. Pupin, of Columbia College, the inventor of the ocean telephone, is building a large villa and expending thousands of dollars developing hundreds of acres of marshy and rocky land in Norfolk, Conn.

Bishop Clarke, of Rhode Island, ninety years old, is the oldest bishop of the Anglican communion in the world.

President Roosevelt has an application for membership in the Oyster Bay Board of Trade, established recently.

Miss Nettie C. Petterson has been selected by the Civil Service Commission to go to the Philippines to hold the examinations of candidates for the eligible list.

Alfred B. Preble, the strong man at Tufts College, is preparing to start a unique and expensive trip through the Hudson Bay region next week, under the auspices of the biological survey of Washington.

Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

The Roanoke Times, in an article on Bryanism and Clevelandism, says: "As we have said before, the party is greater than any man in it, and it cannot be sacrificed itself in a compromise by its leaders. It is a party that is out of place in the party of the people."

The Clarke Courier denies the statement that Virginians are "down on" Mr. Carlisle, late of Kentucky, and says: "The people of Virginia are far too intelligent and reasonable to assume that they have the right to dictate to Mr. Carlisle. He is a man to whom we shall have for his clients."

The Petersburg Index-Appeal says: "All the newspapers are publishing a laudatory statement of the fact that what the miners will get as the result of the award by the Coal Strike Commission. What the public will get is a matter of far more importance, but it is absent from the newspapers. But, as usual, the public gets left."

The Roanoke World, which always has a good word for the teachers, says: "Talk about pensioning school teachers. Here in Virginia the teachers who obtain in the rural districts. This would be much more considerable of our worthy class of educators, and a far more effective and humane policy than to hold out money to the teacher after being worn out in the service. Virginia will make them pensioners upon her bounty."

Touchy. "Beg pardon, madam," said the clerk, "but what did you say your name was?" "I didn't say," snapped the Chicago woman, who had just completed her seventh matrimonial venture, "all you need to know is what my name is."—Chicago Chronicle.

THE MAN ABOUT TOWN

—BY—
Harry Tucker.

DAILY CALENDAR, MARCH 27.
6001 B. C.—The Ark settled down on Mount Ararat.
1908 A. D.—Good fishing on Easter Street.

Exult Fatty Felix at it.
Having settled down in the quiet tenor of his way Fatty Felix has ceased to play a prominent part in public affairs. He gives us in fact of address to record the fact that he has dropped out of public life into total oblivion.

Week after week his adventures as recorded in the Sunday paper made us laugh and growl.

Now that he has gone, we must take general service of him after every square meal, mixed in water or milk.

We hate to have to say it, but we must keep it.
Since Fatty Felix left us, we have received many letters of inquiry concerning him, and it must be said that he is now on the shelf, and no more may we laugh at his adventures, except as memories.

We see many happy hours ahead of us.

We have been informed by Manager Charlie Rex that the Academy Musical Comedy Company is one of the most up-to-date things that ever happened.

"We have a pretty girl galore," he told us in our ear.

Now, if there are pretty girls galore, and any of them have brown eyes, we shall lose no time in getting next to the bunch, and we give notice that now that the cat is on the hot bench at the Academy has got to be reserved every night next week for us.

A good friend of ours, whose name we wouldn't like to mention, went out to see Morrell, the beautiful animal queen, with his best girl.

After Professor Brooks had mystified everybody with his wonderful box trick, and the crowd scattered to ride the elephant, and to look at the monkeys, our good friend turned to his best girl, and said:

"Excuse me a minute. The next act is that of Morrell, the Queen of Jugglers. I'm going over there to see a friend and will be back directly."

"All right," she said, with a twinkle in her eye, "but if she is the Queen of Jugglers, don't you be the King, and don't get on a jag before you return."

He didn't go to see his friend, but stayed right there and talked about other things, and said he was glad that Morrell had passed because he had always favored coon cola and limeade.

As we sat out on the front stoop smoking our fragrant A. B. Abbot, and pondering about the serious condition of things in this age, it occurred to us that we would like to have a photograph of our friend Ernest H. Wells, of Manchester, who has given the Mann bill that carries into the great and good aggregation of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

We have been through the mill ourselves, and we are glad of it.
We have put in a request for that photograph.

North Carolina Sentiment.
The Durham Herald reaches an interesting conclusion thus:

If public opinion in North Carolina was opposed to crimes of the kind with which we have been afflicted recently public opinion would find a way of hanging somebody.

The Asheville Citizen speaks as follows of the editor of the alleged Fairbanks organ:

The Roosevelt Republicans should not be too hard on the Hon. Roscoe Mitchell. In the event that the miracle should occur and Mr. Mitchell should come under the wire, Roscoe's word would likely count for much at the plea counter. Then they would be sorry that they spoke.

The Newberne Journal says:

It would be unfortunate for Democratic interests if Mr. Bryan should bolt the Democratic party, but it would prove far worse for Mr. Bryan. It would mean oblivion for him, for it is not himself, but the party that have given him, and now to him prominent before the political parties in this country.

The Greensboro Record thinks the Watts law is safe. It says:

A fool and his money are soon parted. A Roanoke county distiller has engaged counsel and will test the constitutionality of the Watts bill, charging that it is in conflict with the XIV amendment. The power of the States to regulate the liquor traffic is as old as the hills, but a kind Providence takes care of lawyers as well as other people.

The Charlotte News rises to explain. It says:

The Washington Post paragrapher can't understand why a North Carolina judge sends a man to jail for snoring in court. Because Lynch law is no longer countenanced in this State.

Few Foreign Facts.

Miss Mary M. Adamson has been appointed by the government of Cape Colony inspector of kindergartens in the schools. Mrs. Adamson is known as a writer of children's songs.

The Royal Geographical Society has acquired the boat's compass used by Dr. Livingston on his first journey down the Zambesi Valley, in 1858.

Marseilles, a great market for olive oil, imported in December 3,000 tons of cottonseed oil. Nearly all of it was from the United States.

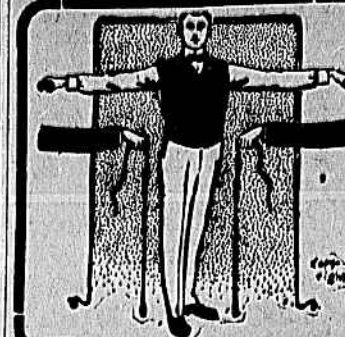
A few years ago Professors Pluncke and Hess, from Bavaria, who are well known for their studies of glaciers, succeeded in boring through the Hintereis glacier in a deep ravine, and at a point where the ice was found to be 350 meters thick.

Dr. Julius Boeckelmann, German physician and scientist, who went to Fata gonia eight years ago to study the conditions of the country, says the Fatagonians will be extinct in a few years.

Mr. Ian Malcolm, M. P., will give a dinner in the House of Commons, London, on April 6th, to all the Canadian-born members of that body.

Rev. Dr. William Hart, head of the American Missionary Society, has been knighted by King Victor Emmanuel in recognition of his successful effort for the education of Italian children.

Touchy. "Beg pardon, madam," said the clerk, "but what did you say your name was?" "I didn't say," snapped the Chicago woman, who had just completed her seventh matrimonial venture, "all you need to know is what my name is."—Chicago Chronicle.



The Measure of the Man

who favors me with his order for a suit is taken with great care, and out and made by expert cutters and tailors in my own shop. Modern and progressive Tailoring Ideas enable me to turn out suits which are the very acme of perfection in style, fit, and finish. My line of Blue Serge is immense.

Schnurman,
Tailor, Kattler, Haberdasher,
907 Main Street.

BRENT, OF THE BADGER

Romance of the Kidnapping of a Governor-General.
Copyright, by PHILIP LITTLE.

CHAPTER XVII.

"You little devil," said the captain, with a laugh, "you will destroy my authority if you keep on with your antics." But the monkey only chattered and danced about on his hind legs as he watched the sailor on the deck-house.

"Lord!" exclaimed one of the men, "if here isn't another of them," and he pointed to the waist of the ship.

Brent looked down and saw the Hindu coming aft with a bundle in his arms. "I say, Fitzmorris," he said, turning to the latter, "do you understand this chap's lingo? If you do, just ask him what he is up to, will you?"

"Yes, I know a little of it." And the governor stepped to the rail at the break of the deck. He uttered a few words to the Hindu in a questioning tone, and the latter, placing his bundle on the deck, saluted reverently. Then he spoke rapidly in reply, until the governor general raised his hand in protest.

"Speak lower," he said in Hindostanee. "The lady is sick in her mind, most noble lord," he said. "I am her servant. I was the servant of her husband, and again general who was in India, and again general in a plan on this side of the great ocean. I know not his name. He was taken sick there and died, and the grief made my mistress mad. She knows not what she does, most honored sir."

He stood with his hands crossed meekly in front of him.
"Yes, I know, Babo. She is mad. Why did the men—the captain of this ship and his men—leave her alone?"

"Ah, honored sir, they were poor cowards. They have put writing on the parades, per which they let in the great cabin, but they left the general's lady with poor Babo, who is weak and knows nothing of the ways of a ship at sea, to die."

The weather was bad, a great storm blowing from the north. The sails were torn away, the crew and the captain drank and ate. They were as drunk as the storm was over, and rowed away while we slept."

"They were indeed cowards," assented Fitzmorris. "But she is safe now, Babo. The great vessel that you see over there on the waves will take you and the general's lady to her land again."

"But will you make her mind well again, the most mighty sir?" He gazed with the faith of a child into the face of the Englishman.

"That I do not know; time alone will tell. What have you in the bundle?" "My poor belongings. Babo needs but few things, but he must have clothes and food."

"Poor chap," said the governor, as he turned and rapidly told Brent, who was leaning on the rail at his side, what the man had said.

"They were a nice lot, the crew of this vessel," replied the captain. "That's the kind of a sailor that is too common in these days. Thank heaven I have a better lot than that."

"Ah, but you are a better captain, than the cad that went away, and left a lying letter to explain his absence."

"That may be so, but we cannot spend our time surmising on the matter. Tell this boy to get his mistress ready and we will leave the ship. We shall have to take the monkey and the parrot, I suppose."

"Yes, I expect that you would not get the old girl if you did not. They will be waiting at least."

He turned to the Hindu and gave him the captain's message. The East Indian saluted to the deck, took up his bundle and disappeared.

CHAPTER XVIII.